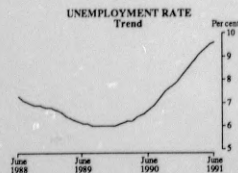
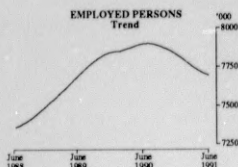


Statistics Weekly

Thursday, 18 July 1991

The week in statistics ...

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Further falls in both employment and unemployment in June

A fall in the number of males employed full time was the main component of the decrease in employment in June 1991. The number of persons unemployed and the unemployment rate also fell for the second consecutive month, as did the participation rate.

The seasonally adjusted estimate of employed persons fell by 9,300 in June 1991 to 7,705,700. Male full-time employment fell by 20,000, contributing to a fall in total full-time employment of 16,300. The number of males employed part time increased by 9,300. For females, employment was relatively steady.

The seasonally adjusted estimate of unemployed persons was 793,000, a fall of 10,600 since May 1991. Male unemployment was relatively steady at 481,400. Female unemployment fell by 8,700 to 311,600, with a fall of 16,100 in the number of females looking for full-time work outweighing an increase of 7,400 in the number of females looking for part-time work.

In June 1991, the seasonally adjusted labour force participation rate fell by 0.2 percentage points to 63.0 per cent. For males the participation rate fell by 0.3 percentage points to 74.5 per cent and for females the participation rate fell by 0.2 percentage points to 51.8 per cent.

LABOUR FORCE SURVEY ESTIMATES
Seasonally adjusted

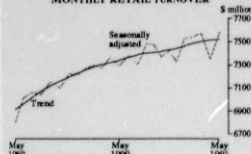
| | Employed | | | Un- employed | Unemploy- ment rate — per cent — | Participa- tion rate |
|----------|----------------------|----------------------|-------------------|-----------------|---|----------------------------|
| | Full-time workers | Part-time workers | Total — '000 — | | | |
| 1991 — | | | | | | |
| February | 6,065.2 | 1,727.4 | 7,792.5 | 738.3 | 8.7 | 63.6 |
| March | 6,007.5 | 1,702.6 | 7,710.1 | 777.1 | 9.2 | 63.2 |
| April | 5,996.4 | 1,724.6 | 7,721.0 | 844.0 | 9.9 | 63.7 |
| May | 6,001.9 | 1,713.1 | 7,715.0 | 803.6 | 9.4 | 63.2 |
| June | 5,985.6 | 1,720.2 | 7,705.7 | 793.0 | 9.3 | 63.0 |

The unemployment rate, seasonally adjusted, for June 1991 was 9.3 per cent compared with the May 1991 estimate of 9.4 per cent. For males, the unemployment rate was unchanged at 9.7 per cent while for females, the rate fell by 0.2 percentage points to 8.8 per cent. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for each State is shown in the table below.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE
Seasonally adjusted
Per cent

| | NSW | Vic. | Qld | SA | WA | Tas. | Aust. |
|----------|-----|------|------|------|------|------|-------|
| 1991 — | | | | | | | |
| February | 7.9 | 8.3 | 9.6 | 8.9 | 9.8 | 9.6 | 8.7 |
| March | 8.3 | 9.2 | 10.2 | 9.4 | 10.3 | 9.6 | 9.2 |
| April | 8.6 | 10.5 | 10.7 | 10.3 | 11.1 | 10.8 | 9.9 |
| May | 8.3 | 10.1 | 10.7 | 9.6 | 10.0 | 11.0 | 9.4 |
| June | 8.2 | 10.4 | 9.5 | 9.6 | 10.5 | 11.7 | 9.3 |

MONTHLY RETAIL TURNOVER



Retail growth still weak

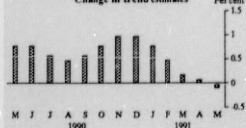
Trend estimates of turnover growth for retail and selected service establishments remained weak despite a rise of 3.1 per cent in the May 1991 seasonally adjusted estimate. The May monthly rise did little more than offset a 2.9 per cent fall, seasonally adjusted, in April.

The monthly growth rate in the trend estimates has averaged 0.2 per cent per month in current prices over the last three months. The average monthly growth rate over the year ended May 1991 was also 0.2 per cent per month.

This very weak growth was due largely to a number of industries being in decline. These were clothing stores, department stores, footwear stores and electrical goods stores. The grocery industry was only showing very weak growth over the three months ended May 1991. Hotels, liquor stores and licensed clubs were showing some growth following a period of decline. Domestic hardware stores and jewellers as well as floor coverings stores and pharmacies were showing strong growth.

RETAIL TURNOVER

| | Percentage change in trend estimates | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|------------------------|
| | Original value in May 1991 \$ million | Average monthly increase for 3 months to May 1991 | May 1991 over May 1990 |
| Pharmacies | 350 | 3.6 | 17.4 |
| Grocers, confectioners, tobacconists | 2,221 | 0.1 | 7.0 |
| Footwear stores | 111 | -1.2 | 5.8 |
| Clothing and fabrics stores | 590 | -0.1 | 3.4 |
| Domestic hardware stores, jewellers | 205 | 1.5 | -0.1 |
| Hotels, liquor stores, licensed clubs | 951 | 0.2 | -0.6 |
| Department and general stores | 820 | -0.5 | -1.1 |
| Floor coverings stores | 68 | 1.5 | -4.0 |
| Electrical goods stores | 431 | -1.7 | -4.8 |
| Other industries | 1,807 | n.a. | n.a. |
| <i>All industries</i> | <i>7,554</i> | <i>0.2</i> | <i>2.4</i> |

GROCERS, CONFECTIONERS, TOBACCONISTS
Retail turnover
Change in trend estimates

The trend estimates of turnover showed weak growth over the last three months in New South Wales, Queensland and the Australian Capital Territory. Victoria, South Australia, Western Australia and Tasmania were in decline over the same period.

RETAIL TURNOVER BY STATE Percentage change in trend estimates

| | NSW | Vic. | Qld | SA | WA | Tas. | ACT | Aust. |
|----------|-----|------|-----|------|------|------|-----|-------|
| 1991 — | | | | | | | | |
| January | 0.3 | 0.1 | 0.5 | 0.7 | 0.0 | 0.7 | 1.2 | 0.3 |
| February | 0.5 | 0.0 | 0.4 | 0.3 | -0.2 | 0.5 | 1.3 | 0.3 |
| March | 0.5 | -0.1 | 0.3 | 0.0 | -0.3 | 0.1 | 1.0 | 0.2 |
| April | 0.4 | -0.2 | 0.1 | -0.1 | -0.3 | -0.3 | 0.7 | 0.2 |
| May | 0.3 | -0.2 | 0.0 | -0.3 | -0.4 | -0.5 | 0.4 | 0.1 |

More working days lost in 1990 due to industrial disputes

The number of working days lost through industrial disputes increased by 14.5 per cent over the previous year, to 1,376,500 in 1990. This increase can be attributed primarily to the level of disputation in the metal products, machinery and equipment manufacturing industry which accounted for 39 per cent of working days lost in 1990.

Managerial policy, a category which includes award restructuring, was the reported cause of just under 50 per cent of all disputes in the year. Wages accounted for only about 9 per cent of disputes and 10.8 per cent of days lost.

The number of employees involved (directly and indirectly) increased by 2.8 per cent to 729,900 in 1990 although the number of disputes decreased by 14.9 per cent from 1,402 to 1,193. Despite these figures, both working days lost and number of employees involved remain at the very low historical levels to which they descended after a peak in 1974, when days lost exceeded 6 million.

The manufacturing industry reported 669,700 working days lost — 48.7 per cent of all days lost in 1990. There were 237,100 working days lost reported by the mining industry and 199,200 in the community services industry in 1990.

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES IN PROGRESS DURING 1990

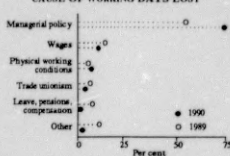
| Industry | Total industrial disputes in progress | Total employees involved (directly and indirectly) | Working days lost |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|--|-------------------|
| | Number | '000 | '000 |
| Manufacturing | 284 | 314.1 | 669.7 |
| Mining | 494 | 97.3 | 237.1 |
| Community services | 68 | 161.0 | 199.2 |
| Transport and storage | 151 | 61.8 | 127.6 |
| Other industries | 196 | 95.7 | 142.9 |
| Total | 1,193 | 729.9 | 1,376.5 |

New South Wales recorded 622,900 working days lost in 1990 followed by Victoria with 391,200. South Australia showed the greatest increase during the twelve month period, rising from 35,000 in 1989 to 125,800 in 1990, an increase of 259 per cent.

At the national level, there were 217 working days lost per thousand employees in 1990, an increase from 190 in 1989, but still less than in earlier years. South Australia showed the sharpest increase, rising from 67 in 1989 to 236. This is the highest number of working days lost per thousand employees for South Australia since 1981. New South Wales (283) and Victoria (226) also showed increases compared with 1989, from 269 and 199 respectively. The Northern Territory recorded 26 working days lost per thousand employees, 76.6 per cent less than the previous year.

For further information, order the publication *Industrial Disputes, Australia* (6322.0), or contact Brenda McMorrow on (06) 252 6561.

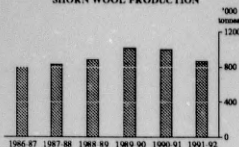
CAUSE OF WORKING DAYS LOST



WORKING DAYS LOST PER THOUSAND EMPLOYEES



SHORN WOOL PRODUCTION



Wool clip forecast down sharply

Shorn wool production is expected to decrease by 12.6 per cent in 1991-92, to 885 thousand tonnes, compared with an expected 1,013 thousand tonnes for 1990-91.

This forecast was issued by the Australian Wool Production Forecasting Committee on 4 July 1991. The committee consists of the following government and industry groups: the Australian Wool Corporation, the Australian Bureau of Statistics, the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics, the National Council of Wool Selling Brokers of Australia, the Federal Council of Private Treaty Wool Merchants and the Wool Council of Australia.

Shorn wool production is expected to fall in all States with the largest decreases in New South Wales, Victoria and Western Australia, falling 12.9 per cent, 15.4 per cent and 14.4 per cent respectively.

The number of sheep and lambs shorn is projected to drop by 7.9 per cent in 1991-92, to 199 million from the record 216 million shorn in 1990-91. The average cut per head is expected to be 4.45 kilograms, 5.1 per cent lower than 1990-91.

For further information, order the publication *Shearing and Wool Production Forecast, Australia, 1991-92 Preliminary (7210.0)*, or contact Bronwyn Brown on (06) 252 5435.

This week in brief ...

□ Imports

Merchandise imports for May 1991 rose by \$98 million to \$4,049 million, an increase of 2 per cent compared with April 1991. The main contributors to this increase were: transport equipment (excluding road vehicles), up 53 per cent to \$208 million; office machines and automatic data processing machines, up 24 per cent to \$344 million; power generating machinery and equipment, up 20 per cent to \$119 million; machinery specialised for particular industries, up 13 per cent to \$179 million; and inedible crude materials, except fuels, up 16 per cent to \$109 million. A significant decrease was recorded for petroleum and related products, down 37 per cent to \$184 million.

Source: *Foreign Trade, Australia, Merchandise Imports, May 1991 (5433.0)*.

□ Award rates of pay

Over the 12 months to May 1991, the weekly award rates of pay index for full-time employees rose by 2.6 per cent. For full-time adult males and full-time adult females the indexes rose by 2.4 per cent and 3.1 per cent respectively.

Source: *Award Rates of Pay Indexes, Australia, May 1991 (6312.0)*.

AVERAGE RETAIL PRICE OF SUPER
GRADE PETROL, MARCH QUARTER 1991
At selected retailers

| City | Cents per litre |
|-----------|-----------------|
| Sydney | 68.2 |
| Melbourne | 69.1 |
| Brisbane | 62.4 |
| Adelaide | 65.4 |
| Perth | 67.7 |
| Hobart | 70.8 |
| Darwin | 72.1 |
| Canberra | 71.6 |

Source: *Average Retail Prices of Selected Items, Eight Capital Cities, March Quarter 1991 (6403.0)*.

Inquiries

The ABS supplies a wide range of statistical information:

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- ☐ by mail order (including subscription)
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Suggestions

Any suggestions for improvement to this publication should be addressed to:

Robert Nixon
Editor
Statistics Weekly
(06) 252 6104

All the week's releases: 10 to 16 July

General

Statistics Weekly, 11 July 1991 (1318.0; \$4.00)

Economic Indicators, Vic., June 1991 (1307.2; \$6.00)

Census of Population and Housing

Census of Population and Housing: 1991 Census Dictionary (2901.0; \$10.00) — *new issue*

Census of Population and Housing: 1991 Census Directory of Classification (2904.0; \$10.00) — *new issue*

Social statistics

Education, Tas., 1990 (4206.6; \$8.00)

National accounts, finance and foreign trade

Foreign Trade, Aust., Merchandise Imports, May 1991 (5433.0; \$9.00) (Previously: Imports, Aust., Monthly Summary Tables)

State Estimates of Private New Capital Expenditure, March Qtr 1991 Survey (5646.0; \$10.00)

Labour statistics and prices

The Labour Force, Aust., June 1991, Preliminary (6202.0; \$10.00)

The Labour Force, Aust. — Preliminary Data on Floppy Disk, June 1991 (6271.0; \$65.00)

Award Rates of Pay Indexes, Aust., May 1991 (6312.0; \$10.00)

Agriculture

Value of Agricultural Commodities Produced, Vic., 1989-90 (7501.2; \$15.00)

Secondary industry and distribution

Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Food, Drink, Tobacco, Stock and Poultry Food, April 1991 (8359.0; \$10.00)

Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Fibres, Yarns, Fabrics, Bedding and Floor Coverings, April 1991 (8360.0; \$10.00)

Retail Trade, Aust., May 1991 (8501.0; \$10.00)

Sales of Australian Wine and Brandy by Winemakers, May 1991 (8504.0; \$10.00)

Dwelling Unit Commencements Reported by Approving Authorities, NSW, March 1991 (8741.1; \$10.00)

Building Activity, NSW, March Qtr 1991 (8752.1; \$10.00)

Building Activity, WA, March Qtr 1991 (8752.5; \$10.00)

Tourist Accommodation, SA, March Qtr 1991 (8635.4; \$10.00)

Building Activity, SA, March Qtr 1991 (8752.4; \$10.00)

Building Approvals, Tas., May 1991 (8731.6; \$9.50)

Transport

Motor Vehicle Registrations, Tas., May 1991 (9303.6; \$5.00)

Calendar of key releases

Expected releases over the fortnight to 30 July 1991

July

- 22** Housing Finance for Owner Occupation, Australia, May 1991 (5609.0; \$10.00)
Export Price Index, Australia, May 1991 (6405.0; \$7.50)
- 24** Price Index of Materials Used in Building Other Than House Building, Eight Capital Cities, May 1991 (6407.0; \$10.00)
- 25** Price Index of Materials Used in House Building, Six State Capital Cities and Canberra, May 1991 (6408.0; \$7.50)
- 26** Price Indexes of Materials Used in Manufacturing Industries, Australia, May 1991 (6411.0; \$10.00)
Manufacturing Production, Australia, June 1991, Preliminary (8301.0; \$10.00)
Registrations of New Motor Vehicles, Australia, June 1991, Preliminary (9301.0; \$10.00)
- 29** Price Indexes of Articles Produced by Manufacturing Industry, Australia, May 1991 (6412.0; \$10.00)
- 30** Balance of Payments, Australia, June 1991 (5301.0; \$15.00)
Building Approvals, Australia, June 1991 (8731.0; \$12.50)

The latest ...

Changes to key State indicators — consolidated to
16 July 1991



| | NSW | Vic. | Qld | SA | WA | Tas. | NT | ACT | Aust. |
|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|-------|
| — Percentage change from same period previous year — | | | | | | | | | |
| New capital expenditure (Mar. qtr 91)* | -8.4 | -22.7 | 0 | -8.9 | -7.0 | -16.9 | n.a. | n.a. | -10.2 |
| Retail turnover (May 91) (trend estimate) | 2.7 | -1.2 | 3.4 | 6.9 | -0.3 | 4.5 | n.a. | 9.3 | 2.4 |
| New motor vehicle registrations (May 91)† | -43.6 | -26.9 | -28.3 | -12.6 | -19.6 | -24.0 | -6.7 | 19.3 | -30.7 |
| Number of dwelling unit approvals (May 91) | -1.0 | -19.3 | 9.2 | 0.2 | -11.7 | 39.6 | -30.3 | -6.2 | -3.3 |
| Value of total building work done (Dec. qtr 90) | 2.5 | -11.1 | -23.0 | 9.6 | -25.5 | -24.7 | 11.4 | 5.3 | -8.5 |
| Employed persons (June 91)* | -1.2 | -6.2 | -1.1 | -1.2 | -1.5 | -2.8 | 4.8 | 2.8 | 2.5 |
| Capital city consumer price index (Mar. qtr 91) | 4.7 | 5.3 | 4.8 | 6.0 | 3.9 | 4.2 | 5.4 | 4.2 | 4.9 |
| Average weekly earnings (full-time adult ordinary time) (Feb. 91) | 7.4 | 7.4 | 7.5 | 8.8 | 8.8 | 4.4 | 7.6 | 6.7 | 7.5 |
| Population (Dec. 90) | 1.1 | 1.3 | 2.3 | 1.1 | 2.2 | 1.1 | 1.2 | 2.5 | 1.5 |
| Room nights in licensed hotels and motels, etc (Dec. qtr 90) | -2.3 | 0.9 | 8.0 | -0.7 | 0.3 | 29.3 | 32.8 | 4.6 | 2.8 |

* Seasonally adjusted except for NT and ACT. † Seasonally adjusted except for Tas., NT and ACT.

The latest ...

8

Key national indicators – consolidated to 16 July 1991

| | | | | Latest figure available | | Percentage change (a) on | |
|--|------------------|-------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| | | | | Original | Seasonally adjusted | Previous period | Corresponding period last year |
| Period | | | | | | | |
| National production | | | | | | | |
| Gross domestic product | — current prices | \$m | Mar. qtr 91 | 91,167 | 95,056 | -0.4 | 1.0 |
| | — 1984-85 prices | | | 61,295 | 64,415 | 0.1 | -1.5 |
| Industrial activity | | | | | | | |
| New capital expenditure | — current prices | \$m | Mar. qtr 91 | 5,736 | 6,463 | -2.9 | -11.6 |
| | — 1984-85 prices | | | 4,334 | 4,880 | -3.4 | -11.5 |
| Expected new capital expenditure | | " | Three months to Jun. 91 | 7,300 | n.a. | n.a. | -10.4 |
| Retail turnover | — current prices | " | May 91 | 7,553.5 | 7,580.6 | 3.1 | 3.9 |
| | — 1984-85 prices | " | Mar. qtr 91 | 14,284.8 | 15,243.0 | 0.4 | -1.3 |
| New motor vehicle registrations | | no. | May 91 | 41,372 | 37,561 | -11.2 | -30.7 |
| Dwelling unit approvals | | " | May 91 | 12,568 | 11,323 | 10.6 | 0.7 |
| Value of all building approvals | | \$m | " | 2,091 | 1,757 | 18.4 | -19.1 |
| Value of total building work done | — current prices | " | Dec. qtr 90 | 7,391 | 7,069 | 0.5 | -8.5 |
| | — 1984-85 prices | " | " | 4,654 | 4,452 | 0.1 | -10.9 |
| Manufacturers' sales | — current prices | " | Mar. qtr 91 | 31,937 | 34,424 | -1.9 | -4.7 |
| | — 1984-85 prices | " | " | 22,162 | 23,833 | 1.5 | -7.0 |
| Expected manufacturers' sales | | " | Three months to June 91 | 34,850 | n.a. | n.a. | -6.2 |
| Labour | | | | | | | |
| Employed persons | | '000 | June 91 | 7,716.7 | 7,705.7 | -0.1 | -2.5 |
| Unemployment rate † | | % | " | 9.0 | 9.3 | -0.1 | 2.7 |
| Participation rate † | | " | " | 62.9 | 63.0 | -0.2 | -0.8 |
| Job vacancies | | '000 | May 91 | 25.1 | 25.7 | -13.4 | -49.8 |
| Average weekly overtime per employee | | hours | " | 1.1 | 1.1 | -5.9 | -18.8 |
| Prices, profits and wages | | | | | | | |
| Consumer price index | 1980-81 = 100.0 | Mar. qtr 91 | | 214.1 | n.a. | -0.2 | 4.9 |
| Price index of materials used in manufacturing industries | 1984-85 = 100.0 | Apr. 91 | | 117.6 | n.a. | -1.3 | -1.9 |
| Price index of articles produced by manufacturing industry | 1988-89 = 100.0 | Apr. 91 | | 110.5 | n.a. | 0.0 | 1.7 |
| Company profits before income tax | \$m | Mar. qtr 91 | | 2,266 | 2,762 | -29.1 | -32.0 |
| Average weekly earnings (Full-time adults; ordinary time) | \$ | Feb. 91 | | 564.20 | n.a. | 1.6 | 7.5 |
| Interest rates (b) (monthly average) | | | | | | | |
| 90-day bank bills † | % per annum | May 91 | | 10.35 | n.a. | -0.95 | -4.65 |
| 10-year Treasury bonds † | " | " | | 10.75 | n.a. | -0.25 | -2.75 |
| Balance of payments | | | | | | | |
| Exports of merchandise | \$m | May 91 | | 4,687 | 4,463 | 6.4 | 8.1 |
| Imports of merchandise | " | " | | 3,986 | 3,844 | -9.1 | -1.2 |
| Balance on merchandise trade (c) | " | " | | 701 | 619 | n.a. | 163.4 |
| Balance of goods and services (c) | " | " | | 419 | 365 | n.a. | n.a. |
| Balance on current account (c) | " | " | | -833 | -857 | 44.6 | 34.5 |
| Terms of trade (d) | 1984-85 = 100.0 | Mar. qtr 91 | | n.a. | 98.9 | -3.3 | -6.5 |
| Foreign investment | | | | | | | |
| Net foreign debt | \$m | 31 Mar. 91 | | 133,491 | n.a. | 2.6 | 3.2 |
| Net foreign liabilities | " | " | | 177,337 | n.a. | 2.9 | 6.7 |
| Exchange rates (monthly average) | | | | | | | |
| US\$ | per SA | May 91 | | 0.7746 | n.a. | -0.7 | 1.7 |
| Trade weighted index | May 1970 = 100.0 | " | | 59.4 | n.a. | -0.3 | -0.7 |
| Other indicators | | | | | | | |
| Population (resident at end of qtr) | million | Dec. 90 | | 17.2 | n.a. | 0.4 | 1.5 |
| Overseas visitor arrivals | '000 | Feb. 91 | | 191 | 178 | -6.3 | -0.7 |

(a) Based on seasonally adjusted figures where available. (b) Source: Reserve Bank of Australia. (c) For percentage changes, a minus sign indicates an increase in the deficit; no sign means a decrease in the deficit or an increase in the surplus. (d) The ratio of the price of goods and services for exports to that for imports.

NOTES: † = change is shown in terms of percentage points. n.a. = not available.

Figures have been taken from a variety of ABS publications. Copies may be obtained from Information Services (see page 6).

Some of the figures shown are preliminary, some final, and some are revisions of previously published figures. Users should check the latest relevant publication or with the ABS Information Services if the status of the statistic is important.

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